



Steven K. Young, Director

DIA Initiates Action to Establish Person Directed Care Environments

DES MOINES, IOWA (September 20, 2006) – The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) today initiated rule-making action to permit the establishment of person directed care environments in Iowa nursing homes, DIA Director Steve Young said. “The Department has filed its Notice of Intended Action to amend rules pertaining to nursing facilities and the minimum physical standards for their construction or renovation,” the Director explained.

The proposed amendments, which will be published in the October 11th edition of the Iowa Administrative Bulletin, permit nursing facilities to establish person directed care environments in which the care and services provided promote decision-making and choices by the residents, Young explained. “Adoption of the proposed rules also will enhance the facility’s ability to respond to each resident’s needs and promote a home-like environment,” he added.

The proposed rules minimize regulatory barriers to the establishment of person directed care environments by inserting resident choice in various provisions, including those dealing with resident clothing, bathing, living arrangements, care and treatment plans, medication administration, and meal planning. Additionally, the proposed amendments remove certain restrictions on employee duties permitting them to serve in dual capacities, such as resident care and meal preparation.

Additional changes made to the rules by the proposed amendments strike outdated requirements dealing with the physical structure of nursing facilities, the arrangement of resident rooms, and requirements dealing with specific rooms. Adoption of the proposed amendments will permit long-term care facilities to construct new facilities based on such designs as the Green House Project or the Eden Alternative, which feature smaller, home-like environments. Facilities that wish to renovate, too, will be able to break up larger traditional structures into smaller person directed care environments, the Director noted.

Young said the development of the proposed amendments began when DIA solicited input from the state’s long-term care industry. The industry suggestions then were reviewed by a regulatory work group of the Iowa Person Directed Care Coalition, which made further suggestions regarding content. “The Department has been actively promoting the concept of person directed care and has sponsored several informational sessions for long-term care providers,” he added.

Person directed care, the Green House Project, and alternative settings for long-term care were featured at Department-sponsored DIALOGUE sessions last December and at a forum held last month. Information presented at these sessions may be accessed through the DIA’s Hot Notices web page: www.state.ia.us/government/dia/page20.html.

This release and other news items from the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) may be found on the Department’s “Hot Notices” web page at <http://www.state.ia.us/government/dia/page20.html>.

“During the past several months I’ve visited many facilities across Iowa and talked with numerous administrators regarding the person directed care concept. I’m also one of a few directors of a state survey agency to have visited the original Green House Project in Tupelo, Mississippi,” Young noted, adding: “The more I hear from administrators, the more I’m convinced that person directed care is the way of the future. I want to make sure that regulatory boundaries are minimized so that Iowans will be able to grow old in facilities that recognize their individuality and treat them accordingly.”

#

NOTE: A copy of the Department’s Notice of Intended Action also may be downloaded from DIA’s Hot Notices Web Site at the Internet address shown above.